

In the Abstract:

A drawing furnace (10) or the like for manufacturing optical (3) fiber preferably of a vertical fiber preform (1), which drawing furnace ~~comprises~~ includes at least a preferably tubular heating element (12) surrounding the fiber preform (1) for heating the fiber preform, an outside insulating layer (13) of the heating element (12), a frame part (11) of the drawing furnace in order to place ~~said~~ the heating element (12) and ~~said~~ insulating layer (13) in the drawing furnace (10), and a cover part (20) in order to close the area between ~~said~~ the heating element (12) and ~~said~~ the frame part (11) to insulate the insulating layer (13) from the gas flow (4) surrounding the fiber preform. A gas tube (16) is fitted between the cover part (20) of the drawing furnace (10) and the heating element (12) in order to feed gas to the gas space surrounding the fiber preform, and the cover part (20) is still fitted mobile in relation to the frame (11) when the length of the heating element (12) changes in such a manner, that a force, which is substantially constant and seals the gas tube to the end of the heating element, is directed at ~~said~~ the gas tube in all modes of operation of the drawing furnace (10).

(Fig. 1)